

have a sheriff in charge of this operation.

HIGH-DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLANS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, a recent report has shown that enrollment in high-deductible health plans associated with health savings accounts grew by 25 percent in 2009 to a total of 10 million Americans. These plans, which often provide the lowest-priced health insurance, are targeted in the newly enacted health care bill.

ObamaCare will increase taxes on HSAs from 10 percent to 20 percent and will prevent over-the-counter drugs from being reimbursed tax free from the health savings accounts. Millions of Americans rely on HSAs to cover deductibles, insurance copays, over-the-counter medications, and a plethora of other medical expenses. Furthermore, HSAs are an excellent tool to cut health care costs, while ObamaCare, itself, provides no such tools.

If you truly support health care affordability, I ask you to support my legislation, H.R. 5126, which restores the valuable tool that saves costs.

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SARAH NOBLE SCHOOL WALKING PROJECT

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, more than 52,000 miles in 4 weeks. That is what 10,000 steps, or 5 miles, every single day is. That's what the kids at Sarah Noble School in New Milford, Connecticut, accomplished in May. In their fourth annual school walking project for fifth graders, students lived by the "Triple E" mantra: exercise, eating healthy, and protecting the environment. These students are putting themselves on a path to a healthier life by investing in walking. Healthy habits that can start now can pay off as they grow older because, as we know, obese youth are becoming an epidemic. They are more likely to have high-risk factors for cardiovascular disease such as high cholesterol and high blood pressure, as well as Type II diabetes and several types of cancer.

We've got to break this cycle, and it starts with a single step, some healthy snacks, and keeping the air we breathe clean. At Sarah Noble School, fifth graders are already doing their part, and they have given me this pedometer to help me do the same. Together, we can all strive to be healthy, one step at a time.

AMERICA SPEAKING OUT TOWN HALL

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to engage Floridians to talk about the challenges facing our country, I hosted an America Speaking Out town hall meeting in Plant City, Florida, late last week. City Hall was packed with people who are concerned about the direction our country is headed. Their message was loud and clear: Washington has ignored the voice of the American people and pushed through an agenda that does nothing but grow the size of government and our national debt.

Mr. Speaker, instead of handing an IOU to future generations in an effort to radically grow the government, Washington should exercise fiscal restraint and produce economic solutions that let people and businesses keep more of what they earn so they can innovate, grow, and create jobs to kick-start our economy.

Mr. Speaker, Washington can no longer ignore the voice of the people. Americans are speaking out and Washington needs to listen.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Last week, the unemployment rate dropped to 9.7 percent, and the economy added over 400,000 jobs. Since the beginning of last year, we have added an average of 200,000 jobs a month. Unemployment rates dropped in 90 percent of the Nation's largest metro areas, with much of the improvement seen in the manufacturing sector instead of outsourcing like it was done in the past administration. And thanks in large part to the first-time home buyers tax credit, home sales rose in April as well.

But while our economy is showing signs of progress, our work is far from over. We must continue to focus on solid, job-creating bills that will help our economy move forward. Yet even though progress has been made, Republicans want to continue to side with Wall Street and the big banks that caused the crisis. Saying "no" over and over again is not progress; it is destructive.

Democrats are committed to keep on working and focusing on initiatives that will correct the failed policies of the past, but we all must work together.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS GONE?

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, investigative journalists pursued alleged scandals involving former House majority leader Tom DeLay and former White House deputy chief of staff Karl

Rove, even though neither was ever convicted of any wrongdoing. But today, few investigative reporters are focused on what could be a criminal attempt by the Obama administration to manipulate the Democratic Senate primaries in Pennsylvania and Colorado.

While we don't know all the facts about the administration's actions, we do know the following: It is against the law to offer a government job in exchange for dropping out of a political race. It is against the law for administration officials to interfere in the nominee process of a Senate election. And it is against the law to obstruct justice.

Rather than a swarm of investigative reporters demanding answers from the administration, we hear only the sound of crickets chirping on the White House lawn.

JOBS

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed and disheartened by congressional Republicans' attempts to reinstitute the same flawed policies that created the economic crisis we find ourselves in today. Congressional Republicans are determined to abandon Americans who have lost their jobs and partner with special interest groups like the Wall Street banks, credit card companies, Big Oil, and insurance companies.

Their intent is shown in their voting record. Republicans have voted against every major piece of economic legislation we've taken up this year. They voted "no" on the Recovery Act. They voted "no" to rein in banks through Wall Street reform. They even voted "no" for summer jobs.

I am proud to be a Democrat in this Congress and stand up for hard-working Americans. Our party is dedicated to moving America in a new direction, creating good American jobs, lowering taxes for the middle class and small businesses, and building a strong new foundation for the economy and for Main Street.

The growing signs of economic recovery show our policies are working. Consider that American jobs have been created in six of the last seven months, averaging nearly 200,000 jobs a month this year. While more needs to be done, Mr. Speaker, America is on the road to recovery.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. A recent Gallup poll showed 79 percent of Americans now view the Federal debt as a serious threat to the future well-being of this Nation. It's no wonder because the administration just announced that the Nation's debt will